

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 DOTE-00 EPA-01 OES-07 COME-00
TRSE-00 STR-04 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01
USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /044 W
-----100940Z 015768 /15
P 100857Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8531

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, JA
SUBJECT: VISIT TO U.S. AUTO LABS BY MOT OFFICIALS

REF: A) STATE 130377
B) STATE 123990
C) MEYER/MEYERS TELECON 6/3/77
D) TOKYO 7785

1. SUMMARY: EMBOFF HAS GIVEN MOFA OFFICIALS ITINERARIES AND EXPLAINED RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN USG AND TESTING LABS IN REAFFIRMING OUR INVITATION FOR MOT OFFICIALS TO VISIT US BEFORE JULY ROUND OF TECHNICAL TALKS. DESPITE PROMISE OF MAY 31 MEETING, MOT OFFICIALS HAVE TO DATE NOT REQUESTED ANY FURTHER INFORMATION FROM US IN ORDER TO DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO ACCEPT USG'S INVITATION. MOT HAS ALSO, THROUGH JAPAN AUTOMOBILE IMPORTERS ASSOCIATION (JAIA), MADE PROPOSAL THAT MOT INSPECTORS CARRY OUT NON-QUANTIFIABLE TESTS AT MANUFACTURERS FACILITIES IN U.S. PROPOSAL MAY ALSO INCLUDE POSSIBILITY OF CONDUCTING SIX IMPORTANT TESTS IN U.S., ALTHOUGH THIS IS NOT CLEAR AND MOFA IS CHECKING THIS POINT WITH MOT. EMBASSY HAS WELCOMED THIS APPARENT MOT INITIATIVE AND SUGGESTS THAT WE MOVE AHEAD ON ALL THREE POINTS, I.E., PROPOSAL FOR JULY TALKS, OUR INVITATION FOR MOT OFFICIALS TO VISIT STATES AND MOT NON-QUANTITATIVE TEST
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INITIATIVE, AT LEAST UNTIL WE KNOW WHETHER SIX IMPORTANT TESTS ARE INCLUDED IN MOT INITIATIVE AND WHETHER U.S. MANUFACTURERS WANT TO ADOPT MOT PROPOSAL. END SUMMARY.

2. ON JUNE 10, EMBOFF MET WITH MOFA 2ND NA OFFICIALS, GAVE THEM LIST OF INDEPENDENT LABS CONTAINED REFTTEL A, DESCRIBED RELATIONSHIP THAT NOW EXISTS BETWEEN LABS DOING SAFETY AND EMISSION

TESTING AND USG, AND REITERATED INVITATION FOR MOT OFFICIALS TO VISIT U.S. LABS BEFORE END JULY ROUND OF TECHNICAL TALKS. EMBOFF AGAIN STRESSED OUR WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS AND CREATE AT UPCOMING ROUND OF TALKS SOME SORT OF LINKAGE BETWEEN LABS AND USG THAT WOULD MAKE TESTING DONE IN THESE FACILITIES ACCEPTABLE TO MOT. DESPITE PROMISE MENTIONED TOKYO 7785, MOT OFFICIALS HAVE NOT, TO DATE, COME UP WITH ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS THAT THEY WANT ANSWERED PRIOR TO DECIDING WHETHER OR NOT TO VISIT U.S. EMBOFF EXPRESSED HOPE THAT INFO FURNISHED TO MOFA TODAY WOULD ANSWER THEIR CONCERNS AND AGAIN OFFERED TO ARRANGE ITINERARY SHOULD MOT OFFICIALS DECIDE TO ACCEPT OUR INVITATION.

3. REASON THAT MOT OFFICIALS HAVE NOT YET RESPONDED TO OUR INVITATION MAY BE PARTLY THAT MOT ITSELF HAS NOW MADE PROPOSAL, THROUGH JAIA TO ITS MEMBERS, THAT MOT OFFICIALS BE INVITED BY INDIVIDUAL MANUFACTURERS TO CARRY OUT NON-QUANTIFIABLE TESTS NOW DONE AT MOT'S MITAKA LAB AT THE MANUFACTURER'S OWN FACILITY IN ITS HOME COUNTRY. THIS PROPOSAL (COPY OF WHICH IS BEING POUCHED) WAS APPARENTLY ISSUED IN DRAFT TO JAIA A FEW MONTHS AGO FOR COMMENT BY ITS MEMBERS: I.E., FORD JAPAN AND LOCAL DEALERS REPRESENTING CHRYSLER AND GENERAL MOTORS. (THIS PROPOSAL IS ALSO PROBABLE SOURCE OF PRIVATE COMPANY INVITATIONS MENTIONED DURING MEYER/MEYERS TELEPHONE CONVERSATION AND PARA 2, REFTEL B). FORMAL PROPOSAL WAS HANDED OUT BY JAIA ON JUNE 8. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE AT JAIA, FORD APPEARS TO BE INTERESTED IN RESPONDING AFFIRMATIVELY TO PROPOSAL FOR TESTING OF ITS 78 MODELS, ONE CHRYSLER DEALER (DAIYA STAR INTERNATIONAL) APPEARS INTERESTED, AND GM JAPANESE DEALERS HAVE INDICATED NO INTEREST, AT LEAST FOR THE 78 MODELS.

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4. IN OUR OWN CONVERSATIONS, WE FOUND THAT FORD IS EAGER TO INVITE MOT OFFICIALS TO COME AND, ALTHOUGH APPLICATIONS FOR TESTING OF ITS TWENTY-ONE 1978 EARLY PRODUCTION VEHICLES AT FORD U.S. FACILITIES HAVE NOT YET BEEN ACCEPTED, FORD IS HOPEFUL THE INSPECTIONS COULD TAKE PLACE FROM MID-AUGUST THROUGH FIRST WEEK SEPTEMBER. LOCAL CHRYSLER OFFICIALS HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF THE MOT INITIATIVE, SAYING THAT "ANY ARRANGEMENT FOR MOT OFFICIALS TO COME TO THE STATES IS BEING SET UP BY CHRYSLER U.S. AND WASHINGTON;" THE LOCAL GM OFFICE ALSO APPEARS ENTIRELY UNAWARE OF THIS MOT PROPOSAL FOR STATE-SIDE NON-QUANTIFIABLE TESTING. WE THINK IT POSSIBLE THAT BOTH CHRYSLER AND GM JAPANESE DEALERS HAVE CHOSEN NOT TO INFORM THEIR TOKYO-BASED PARENTS OF THIS PROPOSAL. IN ANSWER TO OUR QUERY, MOT LAT AT MITAKA SAID NO TESTING HAS YET BEEN SCHEDULED IN THE U.S., THOUGH THIS IS UNDERSTANDABLE AS FORMAL PROPOSAL ONLY HANDED OUT ON THE 8TH.

5. PROPOSAL CONTAINS LIST OF TESTS THAT CAN BE PERFORMED IN U.S. UPON SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS BY EACH MANUFACTURER FOR EACH MODEL VEHICLE TO BE TESTED. IT IS FORD'S READING, OURS, AND JAIA'S THAT PROPOSAL ALSO CONTAINS OFFER TO CONDUCT SIX IMPORTANT TESTS IN U.S. IF "ENFORCEMENT OF THESE TESTS WOULD BE DIFFICULT": I.E., IF VALIDITY OF THEIR RESULTS CANNOT BE CERTIFIED BY A GOVERNMENTAL OR SEMI-OFFICIAL AGENCY. INFORMAL
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SOUNDING OF THE MOT AS TO WHETHER OR NOT SIX TESTS WERE INCLUDED IN PROPOSAL PRODUCED NEGATIVE RESPONSE. MOFA NOW HAS COPIES OF MOT PROPOSAL AND WE HAVE ASKED THEM FOR FORMAL READING WHETHER SIX TESTS ARE INCLUDED.

6. COMMENT: EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT WE TRY TO MOVE AHEAD WITH ALL THREE PROPOSALS, AT LEAST UNTIL WE KNOW WHETHER STATE-SIDE TESTING OF SIX IMPORTANT ITEMS IS INCLUDED AND WHETHER ALL U.S. MANUFACTURERS ARE INFORMED OF AND WISH TO ADOPT THIS SYSTEM. IF SIX TESTS ARE INCLUDED AND ALL U.S. MANUFACTURERS DO NOT WISH TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NEW SYSTEM, WE WILL STILL HAVE TO PURSUE THE QUESTION OF THE SIX TESTS BEING DONE IN THE U.S. BY THE MANUFACTURERS BUT CERTIFIED BY THE USG IN SOME WAY ACCEPTABLE TO THE GOJ.
MANSFIELD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Office: ACTION EB
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Release Date: n/a
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Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2187905
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT TO U.S. AUTO LABS BY MOT OFFICIALS
TAGS: ETRD, ELTN, JA, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3c67e57e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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